

I belong to Glasgow

and Glasgow belongs to me

Stories and poems
by community writers
living in Glasgow



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The stories and poems in this book have been contributed by adult literacies learners, ESOL learners and creative writers living in Glasgow. Most of stories and poems are based on writers' own experiences and free reign has been given to creativity.

Views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Glasgow's Learning or Glasgow Life.

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Welcome

Dear Reader,

Since the beginning of the Aye Write! festival, the part played by community writers has grown and grown. There are now three Glasgow's Learning events in the programme: Adult Literacies; Creative Writing; and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

We are a group of learners, from all over Glasgow, who have gathered together once a week over the last few months to form a Publication Group. This was a completely new learning experience for all of us and most of us didn't know each other at the beginning of the process. Every journey starts with one small step and it has been a stimulating and challenging experience putting this book together. It has also been very interesting to discover how learners from different nationalities view their adopted city.

We were inspired by the idea of compiling a book from the wide ranging contributions submitted by Glasgow's diverse community of learners for Glasgow's Learning's involvement in the 2011 Aye Write! Festival on the theme of 'I Belong to Glasgow and Glasgow Belongs to Me'. We have chosen to use the theme of the Glasgow Coat of Arms for the book but have given it a positive slant because of the positive experience we've had. So now we have the tree that did grow, the bird that did fly, the fish that did swim and the bell that did ring.

Many of the writers had never written for a publication before, and they are thrilled to have their name in print in this Glasgow's Learning community writing publication.

We have been supported by staff from many sections of Glasgow Life and we thank them. This publication is in part funded by the Scottish Government through the Upskilling Fund.

Having a book that includes your own piece of writing is an enduring treasure.

There are 592,820 people in this city with a story to tell – so why not write yours?
If we can do it, you can!

The Publication Group



Karen Buchanan, Martina Stanley, Tracy Duffy, Ann Stewart, William Sweaton, Michael McGinlay, Barry Luke, Frank O'Rourke, Susan McGinlay, Stephen Hamilton, George McNaught



Glasgow on the Go

Michael McGinlay

Springburn Writers

Here is the bird that **did** fly
Spread its wings and flew
Never ceasing, ever increasing
Ambitious Glasgow grew

Here is the tree that **did** grow
Sprouting at a rapid pace
Branches reaching ever out
Proclaiming our dear green place

Here is the bell that **did** ring
With clear and positive chimes
Ever changing, never stopping
Keeping in pace with modern times

Here is the fish that **did** swim
As noble ships built on the Clyde
Constructed by men of iron resolve
Craftsmanship unmatched nationwide

Let Glasgow flourish and prosper
Be proud of our City, rejoice
Happy to be a Glaswegian
Be it born and bred, or by choice.

Growing up in Glasgow





Red Letter Day

Sandra Mack

Today would be a first for me. I was down to read a poem at the Mitchell Library, two in fact, and they would be my own.

Anne, my Creative Writing teacher, had asked me and Helen to read at the **Aye Write!** day. The theme was **'I Belong to Glasgow'**.

It was to start at 2pm; I got there about an hour earlier. The girl at the desk asked, 'Are you reading today?' and, with some pride, I answered **YES**.

Anne came out and asked if I would mind sitting outside for a while as they were still working in the room.

I had brought a can of juice with me and I began to drink it, looking forward to the event. As I sat, I could see it was going to be busy. A queue had formed at the desk and everyone looked so expectant. Most of them were holding books of all sizes; thick, long and short all begging to be read.

Then, suddenly, as if someone had rung a bell, the queue began to move, disappearing into the room. I finished my juice and followed them.

At the front of the room was a chair 'for readers to sit on', I thought. But no, it was not. The readers, or most of them, stood and read stories and poems about childhood, marriage and work. With some happy memories of holidays in the past, all different, but all on the theme of Glasgow, the stories came out loud and clear. We even had a song.

I was told that the event would be on until 4pm, not 3pm, as I thought. So I asked Jane if I could borrow her phone to ask my husband to pick me up at 4.30pm as there was tea and cake afterwards. I did not want to miss that 'Yum Yum.'

Then the time came for me and Helen to read; we decided to go up together. Helen kindly let me read first, people listened, and I even got applause and so did Helen. It was a very entertaining and informative day.

This did wonders for my self confidence.

Growing up in Glasgow

Helen McMahon, Drumchapel Library ALN Group

When I was growing up in the 60s my sisters and I would dress up in our grandmother's clothes, her hats and gloves and we would sing like we were stars. All the children in the close would dress up and make up wee shows and sing and act.

One summer's day, when it was hot and the sky was bright blue, we made up a stage using the washing line and old sheets. My party-piece was "Hey Big Spender!" by Shirley Bassey. I wore my grandmother's long, black, fitted dress with thin straps. I thought I was gorgeous! I had white beads and long white gloves... and, of course, high heel shoes.

I was not a good singer but I would give it a good bash. My friend was really good and she was my backing singer when I needed help. We would make up our own plays and they were funny.

At tea-time my mother would shout us in for our dinner. "Hey Big Spender... your tea's oot!"

Glasgow

Edwina McClory, Dalmarnock
Inclusive Adult Learning

I have lived in Dennistoun since I was nine years old. My primary school was Thompson St. I went to the Parade Pictures to see Grease and many other films. I would get ice cream on a Sunday from Coia Café at Duke St. I would go to Alexander Park and play with my friends.

Now I'm older I've seen Dennistoun change over the years. My old primary school and the supermarket are now houses and the Parade Pictures was a pub, but they pulled it down. Last year Coia Café has moved along the road and is bigger. I like living in Dennistoun.



My Childhood in a Glasgow Tenement

Esther Beaton, Drumchapel Library ALN Group

I was born in Glasgow, six years before the Second World War was declared. At that time Glasgow was the second largest city in the United Kingdom and it was very over-crowded.

Since the Victorian era Glasgow had become a busy industrial city which is why tenement buildings were built to house the many workers and their families. The men worked in the shipyards, iron and steel works and factories, often working long hours of hard physical work. The men were the breadwinners in the family as their wives, in the main, were housewives looking after house and children.

My aunt, who had become a young widow with a young baby, came to stay with my parents, three adults and two babies in a 'room and kitchen' with a toilet, or lavatory as we called it then, situated on the mid-stair landing. Living in such close surroundings we all had to 'get on' with one another.

One shop at the 'close mouth', entrance to the building, was a dairy. Milk in bottles clinking and rattling noisily, was delivered at 5am each morning. This was a wake-up call to early morning workers, and everybody else!

The 'close' was the passageway leading into the building and homes up the stairs. The back-close was at the rear of the building and led to the 'back-yard'. As children we played in this area using our imagination, becoming miniature housewives, shopkeepers, cowboys and Indians. There was lots of good fun especially when a back-yard concert was organised.

At the foot of the back yard was the 'middens'. This was a brick structure where four refuse bins per tenement were kept. The roof of this structure was our stage when a back-yard concert was held! Health and Safety rules in those days were not so stringent as they are today!

I was too young to be bored. Children had lots to do and see. Beautiful parks with official staff to keep the public from spoiling the areas and to keep us out of trouble too. We had plenty of adults around to keep children safe.

However, sadly things changed when war broke out and our happy, carefree childhood was brought to an abrupt end.

Childhood Memories

Helen Gillulay,

Drumchapel Library ALN Group

I was born in Glasgow
In a hospital called Redlands
I lived in Maryhill and Drumchapel
Where I had many friends.

Together we played ropes, chap the
door and run away
Playing balls and kick the can
Were the games that passed the day

Whenever I got hungry
I'd go back to 'the hoose'
To get a piece 'n' jam
And a big cold glass of juice

As soon as I was finished
I'd rush back out to play
What's the time Mr Wolf
Until the very last light of day

My mum would make the dinner
Pie, Chips and Beans
Didn't have any nonsense like
"You'll have to eat your greens"

Another favourite dish of mum's
Was good auld mince 'n' tatties
There wasn't any takeaway food
Like Chicken Tikka and Chapatis

Friday night was chippy night
And we'd all have fish and chips
Mmmm, just the thought of it
Has me smacking my lips!

Sunday meant a Sunday roast
And fighting over the Sunday Post
Reading Oor Wullie and the Broons
Now we've got PS3 and I-Tunes

Sunday night meant bath time
Getting scrubbed and ready for school
Hair washed, bone combed
That was mum's rule!

These are my memories
And they fill my heart with glee
I belong to Glasgow
And Glasgow belongs to me!



Brian's Story

Glasgow Simon Community

I have stayed in Glasgow all my days. I grew up in a tenement in Kinning Park or KP as we used to call it.

I grew up with four brothers and my mum and dad. My dad worked in a steel factory and my mum had different jobs. I remember her working in a biscuit factory called Gray Dunns and a chippy.

I was different from my brothers in that I didn't start talking until I was 13. My Mother wasn't given a reason for this but I think it might have been a side effect from the vaccine I was given for the whooping cough. It's sad when you can't talk even though you really want too. I had no trouble thinking.

All this changed however. My prayers were finally answered. The day I started talking was amazing. I really thought I was never going to talk again and I would constantly be the person other people would make fun out of. I remember my Mother crying with joy and how wonderful that day was. Some people say I haven't stopped talking since.

Glasgow's great but it would be even better if it could cut down on knife crime and all the drug related problems. However Glasgow is a friendly city where the people are happy to have a chat. It has many nice buildings especially to the west of the city and I like to take a walk that way. That's why I am proud to be a Glaswegian.

Back in the Day

Elizabeth, East End GAMH Group

Everybody use to travel around with horses and wheelbarrows collecting scrap and rags.

That was back in the day.

Many years ago vans became a frenzy as I may say, coal, fruit, clothes, milk, meat, chippy vans, clenny vans...

The weans used to rummage the bins but that was the thing back in the day I dare say....

Back in the day all the dogs were stray back in the day.

No No wat a mean 'n' that no.com.

The Old Goat

Gina, Elderpark ALN Group

I went to Gran's and told her to put the tea on for Granddad who thinks he is god.

But Granny thinks he is a goat.

Then we went for a walk with the dogs and we saw a witch who was washing in the well.

And the girl was watching at the garden gate while Charlie and Pebbles played.

Things about Glasgow

J Barrie, East End GAMH Group

I remember going to the baths and then going to the chippie for fritters.

I liked having a fish supper on a Friday.

I remember getting whelks and mussels at the barras.

I remember smelling the Tennent's Brewery and the biscuit factory in Tollcross.

I like the taste of Im Bru and tattie scones.

I liked a bacon buttie and a pizza supper.

I liked shopping in Sauchiehall, Buchanan and Argyle streets

I liked going to Stirling's Library for a coffee in Queen St.

I liked the rain in Glasgow as it cleans the streets.

Dodging umbrellas in Argyle St.

I like listening to the noise of the traffic outside my

Window as it tells me everything is normal

Car alarms going off all night is annoying.



Thomas's Story

Glasgow Simon Community

I have special memories of Glasgow which I hold dear to my mind and heart.

When I was a boy my neighbours were very good to each other, and they became more like family. At weekends we would stay over in each others house. There would be arguments and celebrations, happy times and sad times. On those cold nights I remember having hot drinks and toast in neighbours houses and sitting around the fire. Even though times were tough we always got by and did not see anyone go without.

In Glasgow we are proud of our city and have always been that way. This is something passed on to us for generations. On the Clyde many ships were built. However in true Glaswegian style the shipyard workers weren't afraid to stand up for themselves and there were strikes, sit-ins and other activities to save their jobs.

Glasgow has great night life and places to go for entertainment - places like Paddy's market (sadly gone), the Barras and many good parks and places to eat. We are welcoming and friendly people and have respect for people no matter where you come from. No matter if you are rich or poor you'll be treated the same. That's why Glasgow is close to my heart.

William's Story

Glasgow Simon Community

I was born two months premature and stayed with my Gran for the first year of my life in Fernhill. I then moved back in with my parents in Castlemilk. I have three sisters and one brother.

I remember playing games as a wean such as snakes and ladders, Mr Wolf, Guess Who and Musical Statues. There was also a swimming pool nearby. Primary school was alright but I didn't like secondary. On my three day visit to Castlemilk High School I was expelled for reasons I'd rather not say. I then went to Hollybrook in Govanhill.

In general I have always found the people of Glasgow to be friendly. I sold the Daily Record for a while in Shawlands - the pubs, the carry out places and on the street. The tips were good. One guy who owned an Italian restaurant would give me my dinner, an espresso and then bought six papers.

Glasgow also has nice landmarks such as the art galleries, the transport museum, the statues in George Square and all the various parks spread throughout the city.

After spending time homeless I now have my own flat in the Gorbals. It's great having my own place. I would like to go on holiday but I would always come back to Glasgow because it's special to me.

Ina's Story

Glasgow Life North Area Literacies Group

I was born in Harrington Street in Maryhill. I'll not tell you when because that would show my age!!

I went to school every day but I didn't like it. I can't remember any of the teachers.

When I was six me and my family moved to Possilpark. At that time in my family there was five boys and three girls and my mum and dad. I like Possil, the shops are handy, but they used to be a lot better with Cochrane's on Saracen and Galbraiths on Stonyhurst Street. I usually went into the town if I was drinking but I remember going into the Saracen Head with my sister and two guys chatted us up. I support my local team like my Dad, Partick Thistle. It would be great if they won a cup again. I'm proud to be from Glasgow and glad I grew up in this friendly city.



Joe's Story

Glasgow Simon Community

Glasgow is special to me as I was born in the old Rottenrow. I have spent many years in Glasgow. As a kid I grew up with my sister and my Mum. All I ever did was play football from morning until night.

Glasgow is a special place, it should really be the Capital. What I think really makes Glasgow special is that the Glaswegians are cheery and easy to talk to. I'm proud to be Glaswegian. I met my wife in Glasgow and we're still together and we have a lovely house in town.

John's Story

Glasgow Simon Community

I belong to Glasgow but this is the city of my youth.

I loved the movies from the 20's and 30's, the dance halls, going to see live shows in the Empire, the beginning of real Rock 'n' Roll and stars from America- not the copycats from England.

There were great performers in the late 50's and 60's. They are legends now through their talent and their names have lasted the test of time e.g. Buddy Holly, Bill Haley and the Comets, Elvis, Eddie Cochran, Gene Vincent, Charlie Gracie, Little Richard and many more real class acts.

One thing I did really like was meeting and dating girls and taking them out occasionally for a meal or going away for a day. The girls from Glasgow always done themselves up well and looked pretty. I liked my weekend bevvie with the boys and going to the match on a Saturday then going home for dinner- sobering up and then getting ready for the big Saturday night, great.

The Waverley

Frank O'Rourke, Pollok Civic Realm ALN Group

Boat
Funnel
Waverley
Down the River
Flag.

Kevin's Story

Glasgow Simon Community

Growing up in Glasgow was magic. Glaswegians (the real Glaswegians) are kind, considerate and have empathy for their fellow man, although it can be divided by religion and gang culture. Glaswegians are a race made up of Scots, Irish, Jews, other immigrants and even English.

So it's strange that there seems to be this warmth about the Glasgow people where there is a feeling of trust, and an ability to laugh and share together. These are traits not readily associated with many British or even worldly cities. Glasgow has a real grass roots working class environment and a spirit like no other. That's why I'm proud to be fae Glesga.

Tracy's Story

Glasgow Simon Community

My name is Tracy and I was born in Duke Street Hospital. However not long after this, me and my family moved to Livingston and I stayed there for 15yrs. We all then moved back to Glasgow when I was 16. The first place we stayed was Parkhead. This was because my Gran stayed there and because of her age she needed support. One of the things I remember was that I used to be called the Road Runner because I was always running about everywhere. The ice cream van would come to my spot and I would buy a sweetie and I would be at the next spot ready to buy another sweetie and the van guy would shout out, 'beep beep', just like in the cartoons.

I like Glasgow, there is plenty to do. Many of the pubs I go to have a good atmosphere and people are quite happy to have a friendly chat. I enjoy the karaoke and I once won a competition when my local pub competed against another pub. For all those reasons I definitely feel that I belong to Glasgow and Glasgow belongs to me.



Tricia's Memories

Tricia Casey, Glasgow Women's Library

I was born on April 17th 1954. I was born at home in George Street, just off the High Street and Duke Street. The best thing that I remember about our house was the big green door. To open it you had to use a wooden key. It was the funniest key that I have ever seen! The door was called a storm door. We only had one key, but I found out that if you used a lollypop stick that you could open the door. I liked that big green door because you could use it when you wanted to.

Libby was at the same school as me. It was called St Mary's and it was not far from our house, just up the road off Abercrombie Street. The school had a graveyard attached to it, as well as the chapel. It was quite big in the chapel; at the top in the middle was the altar where you made your Holy Communion. There would be flowers everywhere and the colours at the altar were lovely and bright.

On the day of my first Holy Communion, my Ma got me up early to get a bath so that I would be really clean. After breakfast my Ma would go and get my communion dress and veil. It was really white with lots of frills under the veil and the veil was really long. My hair was long and in ringlets. We would wear ankle socks with a frill that came over your shoes. My shoes were white with a bow.

When I was old enough to play with the big ones, I would help to set up a shop. I would go into the bins and see if I could find any cans, old tatty peelings, bits of net and old newspapers to wrap the messages in. If there were any bottles I would smash them with a brick to make dummy money for our shop. Sometimes you would cut yourself but it was great fun. It was my job to rip up the newspapers for the messages.

As long as I can remember, I loved climbing up on the midden bins, on dykes, over walls and in holes. We lived at Orr Street next to The Umbrella at Bridgeton Cross. We would play under The Umbrella when it was raining. I remember I liked the rain. I remember it being warm. I would take off my shoes and play in the puddles. I remember the green slimy water. I loved to watch the rain when it would come down so hard that it would hit off the ground and come over my head. I remember taking off my cardigan and getting soaked.

When I went home, I remember my Ma saying, "Tricia! What are you trying to do? Catch your death of cold? Get dried and I'll make a cup of tea!"

Growing up

Calum, Pollok Civic Realm
ALN Wednesday Group

When I was six years of age, the Six Million Dollar Man came out on the TV. I used to watch it and my mum bought me a T-shirt of it. Below my mum and dad's house there is a river. I used to run up to the top of it and jump over it, just like the Six Million Dollar man, singing along to the tune of it. When I was jumping over the river, I would jump in slow motion, just like Steve Austin! Sometimes while I was jumping over the river, I used to get to dive. That means getting wet.

My Stookie!

John Docherty
Glasgow Life - North Area Creative Writers

When I was twelve I broke my leg playing football for the school.

I had a stookie on fur about seven weeks – it wiz torture. The itch wiz driving me mad. I used tae sit with my ma's knitting needle, putting it doon between ma leg and the stookie. It wiz loupin' and itchy.

What a relief when I got it off. Ah wiz clawin' ma leg fur days and tore all the skin off ma leg which caused it to go septic.

All in all, that was about three months I was oot of action. No a very bright spark, me, eh?



My Glasgow Story

Marie Christie, Rosemount Flexicentre

I've been going to Rosemount Flexicentre for the last two years. I have learnt a lot since I went to the centre.

I was brought up in Glasgow, in the Calton and that's near the Barras. I always went down to the People's Palace to see the old things they used years ago in my great grannies day. I love looking at what they used and how they dressed. I saw the ration books for the butter, flour, eggs and other things like that. I saw the bus conductor outfits and the ticket machines they used in the tram cars in Glasgow years ago. I went to see the oldest house in Glasgow. It's called Provand's Lordship and it's up at the Royal Infirmary. You can see what things they used in medieval Glasgow. I love going round the museums the older I'm getting. I watch the Antiques Roadshow to see how much things are worth.

When I was young I played wee shops in the old back with my pals. We played finding tins in the midden and filling them up with dirt. We used glass or stones for money and old newspapers to wrap the dirt out the tins. We played wee houses up in the landings with my ma's brand new curtains. She was raging. We also played swapping scraps in our books. As I got older I went to the steamie for my granny. It was in Green Street in the Calton. I loved going a walk round the Barras with my gran and mother. We went round the hawkers stalls.

They sold sheets, curtains, handbags and old fashioned antiques and other things forby.

I mind there was a sonnie park down at the Glasgow Green near Richmond Park. I played there for hours when my mother took me down there with my two brothers Paul and John. When the weather was good in the summer we sat down at the Clydeside feeding the swans with loose bread. We also fed the pigeons and had a game of golf in the golf park near the People's Palace. We got to see the Clydesdale horses walking round the Green with our ice cream cones out of the ice cream van along with a can of juice.

I went to the carnival as well down at the park at night and went on a shot of everything like the swings, big wheel, the waltzers, bingo and other things. That was when I was about 15 years old. I was just a child then. Those were the days and good times with my school friends and pals in the street where I lived.

The Steamie

Sadie, Glasgow's Regeneration Agency – South West

My mum went to 'The Steamie' to wash my dad and brothers' work clothes. I loved it when she put the clothes in the big drier because it was lovely and warm at it. When my mum came back from 'The Steamie' she put the clothes up on the pulley. One time the clothes caught fire in the house. A workman who was working across the road saw the smoke and shouted to my mum to get out. 'The Steamie' was in Clynder Street in Govan where I stayed.

I used to go into the swimming with my pals when my mum was in 'The Steamie'. The man used to shout when your time was up and he would threaten to throw your towel in the water.

I Belong to Glasgow, Glasgow Belongs To Me

Madge Welsh,
Glasgow Women's Library

Chime
boom,
clang, dong, jingle, peal,
ring, sound, strike, tinkle,
tintinnabulate,
toll, tintinnabulation, clapper,
ding-dong, knell, reverberation

b
o
n
g



Glasgow

Brian McCann

Glasgow Life North Area Literacies Group

Hi, my name is Brian McCann. I have been living in Glasgow for 31 years now. I was born in May 1979. For me, growing up in the 80s and 90s was great for me. I have so many great memories growing up then and I had great friends too. I remember running home after school, having a quick bite to eat, getting changed out of my school stuff and playing football with my friends out the back where I lived. I played football until it was that dark you couldn't see the ball any more, with my mum giving me a piece and jam out the window to keep me going.

Well, it all changes once you turn into a teenager, to drinking a bottle of cider at the weekend with your friends, having a laugh and talking about who you fancy, and who fancies you at school. Then walking along the road to go home after your bottle of cider, stuffing a handful of mints in your mouth so your mum or dad don't smell the cider off your breath, getting in the front door of my home and running straight up the stair and shooting straight into my room, right into bed, so that if my mum or dad came into my room I would just say that I was tired and had a good night with my friends. This was just so they couldn't smell the cider; I wasn't tired at all.

Then it all changes again when you get a bit older. You start to settle down with your girlfriend, working hard, moving out of your mum and dad's and getting your own home, starting a family and getting married. As well as that, all your friends from school are doing the same and starting to all split away from each other and you start to lose contact with your friends.

Years just start to fly by after that and, as the years fly by, I feel Glasgow is just getting worse and not a good place to grow up any more. Since 2008 to this year, 2011, I feel Glasgow has gone downhill and has fallen apart. We have young kids taking drugs, taking them into school too, and carrying knives. Glasgow even has the biggest population of youths dying between 15 years and 22 years old due to knife crime.

In the last few months me and my family are thinking of moving out of Glasgow and going to Australia to live to have a better lifestyle that would be good for my son Jamie to grow up in. I fear for Jamie growing up in Glasgow. I am scared he might not live to see 25 or he might get in with the wrong kids at school and be one of these neds coz you can't watch your kid 24:7.

So I think it's time to leave Glasgow but in ma head am saying 'go to Australia' and in ma heart am saying 'stay'. Glasgow will get better – the question is: 'Do I belong to Glasgow and diz Glasgow belong to me?'

The Apollo

Janette,

Glasgow Life - North Area
Creative Writers

Goin' to school
Wasn't much fun
For learning stuff
I wasn't the one!

Doggin' school
Was the way to go
Just make the excuse
There was too much snow!

School's nae fun,
Nae fun at all
Rather see a pop band
In me favourite hall

Off to the Apollo
Such a dash
It's me favourite band
Yes, it's 'The Clash'

Take train up toon
Uniform in bag
Be there soon
I can have a quick fag

Glasgow's real fun
A happening place
If I get caught
I'd be a real disgrace

Don't tell me mother (ma)
She'd be mad
Queued for the tickets
Boy I'm glad

The Apollo is great
A temple in the town
Who the hell's decision
To knock it down

Never mind it's a part of
history
It's nae fair
The end of an era
But I was THERE!



Why Glasgow is Special to Me - Scotland Street School Visit

Duncan Campbell, Pollokshaws ALN

I visited Scotland Street School and it brought back lots of good memories about my own school days.

There were two boys in short trousers playing jorries (marbles). Some people there were dressed in old fashioned uniforms and the teacher had a long dress on. When she came in the boys had to salute and the girls had to curtsey. The desks were old fashioned with an ink well and a lid. I had that at school. This one was for nib pens and they had blotting paper.

The milk came at 10am. We sometimes had a roll and jam for a playpiece. At any time we played jorries or with a spinning top.

At my own school there was a metal lion's head and chain and you could get a drink of water from it. I miss school.

At Scotland Street they showed an old film from the 1940s and they had gas masks on. There was also an exhibition of photos which showed a girl doing exercises.

I remember the dinner ladies and the nit nurse looking through your hair. She came every Wednesday and looked and looked and looked. If she found any nits you were sent to the hospital or your mum put stuff in your hair to get rid of them. But because my mum knew when she came back she would put stuff on my head the night before- it really stank!

I liked wood work and metal work and leather work. We were shown how to make a poker using an anvil and a vice.

My old school is private houses now. There used to be a statue of Our Lady at the front but it's gone now.

The Fighting Dominie (Short Story Extract)

Shirley Whiteside,

Pollokshaws Library Creative Writing Group

They set off at a brisk pace, Robert beside his father, his mother and granny walking behind. They caught a tram and Robert watched Glasgow come to life as they lurched through the city.

Robert's father took up a position at the edge of Pollokshaws Road, not far from Eglinton Toll. He placed Robert in front of him to shield him from the growing numbers of people. There was a general hum of conversation which suddenly hushed.

The cortege had come into sight and men took off their hats while women crossed themselves. Slowly the hearse trundled past. Many of the crowd stepped onto the road. Hundreds quickly turning into thousands.

'What was the man's name Da?' Said Robert, fascinated by this strange event.

'John Maclean son, John Maclean', said his father in a choked voice. Robert turned to look at him and for the first and only time in his life he saw his father cry.

Buckie's Story

Glasgow Simon Community

Of course I belong to Glasgow I was born in Bridgeton and then moved to Barrowfield. There were two gangs— one at the bottom end and one at the top end. You would hear one end shouting, 'Torch ya bass' and the other, 'Spur ya bass'. Then they would clash together and then all of a sudden someone would shout, 'Bizzies' and everyone would scarper.

Glasgow

East End GAMH Group

There was an old weegie called
sally

Who went to the pub fur a
swally

And when she was there she
peed on the flair

For she'd hud too many a cally



Glasgow

Malcolm, East End GAMH Group

When I was a young teenager on a winter evening I was passing over a vacant field and there was a large frozen pond. Some young lads said to me "Don't go on it mister, it is dead slippy". I said "stuff and nonsense" or words to that effect. I stepped on to the ice and 'bang' immediately I fell face first onto the ice.

I looked at my hands and they were covered in blood – my clothes were soaked with blood. I staggered into the house and my mother began applying towels to my head. I was rushed up to Royal and had stitches inserted in the wound.

Fifty years later I went blind in that eye - a 'trauma cataract' and had to have a plastic lens inserted.

Patricia's Story

Glasgow Simon Community

Glasgow means a lot to me as I moved up here in the year 1976, when I was just a baby. I got expelled in my first week at Secondary school and was put into care and went to Cardross Assessment School.

After leaving there and returning to my home town, I got a job and met my boyfriend, my first son's Dad. Then I split up with him as he kept hitting me, bursting my head, my lips, my face and I left as it wasn't good for my son to see.

Then about six months later I met my first husband, he was a woman beater. Even when my Gran died he didn't let me go to the funeral. I was upset as she was the best Gran I could have asked for.

My mum died last year on the 24th February and my Dad the 12th April. I just don't believe my mum and dad are away I loved them so much. I'm proud to be a good Glasgow Rangers supporter and so were my Mum and Dad.

I have met and married a new man, my wonderful husband who is a great guy. I couldn't ask for a better man.

A Walk Through the Fog- A Day to Remember in Glasgow

John McManus, Pollokshaws ALN project

It was a foggy, dreich day in third world Cathcart, everything was depressing. I left my house and walked into the fog, for what seemed an eternity. On and on, I went when suddenly I found myself outside the Café Del Rio in 1958.

On entering I found the café owner making the fish suppers and Kunzel cakes. So I sat down and ordered a special fish supper and ice-cream float. The café owner said there are good records on the juke box. He said that he had new records by The Moon Glows; The Flamingos; The Five Satins; The Dells and The Falcons, so I went to the juke box to play some of them and picked Golden Tear- Drops by the Flamingos.

The inside of the café had an Art Deco design; there was a lovely French polished wood with an inlay of a lighter colour. There were some marble pillars and photographs of The Empire Exhibition on the walls. It was one of my favourite cafes when I was a child. I ate my fish supper which was first class with three pickles!!

After that I got the tram car to Dalmarnock, to meet my old pals. On the way there, I stopped off at the shop that sells the juke box records at Bridgeton Cross and bought the records that I played in the café. I got to Dalmarnock at dusk, I chapped the door and my Uncle Tommy (Teapot Tam) opened it. I said I've got these records that you would like, he said okay!! Just at that moment there was a chap at the door, it was my pals Anne, Ian and the rest of the gang!! They had come to tell me about the new biscuit that has just come out called a Wagon Wheel.

We had to make our way to Springfield Road and when we got there it was dark. We went into the newsagents at the Junction of Baltic Street. On entering through the pink times and green citizens, we savoured the new product. It was a revelation and the same size as a real wagon wheel, nane ae yer modern rubbish! So we wheeled them all the way back home.



My Story

Pat – Glasgow Life North Area Literacies Group

I'll start off where I was born. I was born in Townhead and I am the eldest of two sisters. My mother's family was much bigger, with seven sisters and five brothers. My parents were from different areas of Glasgow. My mother was from the Garngad and my father was from Possilpark. However, this did not stop them from getting together. Their friends set them up on a blind date and many years later they got married.

One thing I remember well was when I was playing outside two boys were throwing bricks. One of them split my head open with a brick. I need stitches so my mother took me to the hospital.

When me and my mum got home from hospital she went to the boys' dads' homes. The boys got into trouble for what they had done. So their dads gave me some money. It was a half-a-crown. That was a lot of money in those days.

So we moved to Springburn for some time and that's where I went to school. Then we went to Possilpark. I was 9 and stayed there for a while. I got a job when I was 16 and the job was piecework as a machinist. At night time I went to night class for reading, writing and spelling. That was at Possilpark.

I left my mum's home at the age of 19 to stay with my boyfriend at that time. So we stayed with each other for a long time. We met each other at the class for reading, writing and spelling.

Many years later on we got married. We stayed at Closeburn Street for 2½ years, then we moved to Cadder for a bigger home for me and my husband's children.

He had two children, a boy and a girl. Many years later I had twin girls so we stayed at Cadder for some time. Then I had twin boys, but one of the boys died.

Some time later on we had to move again. Not the way we wanted to, we had to go homeless. We went to stay in a hostel for ten days. It was not very nice. Then we were sent to Easterhouse for a wee bit. After that, we were at Royston flats for some time and then we got our house at Dundasvale and we were very happy. We are still at Dundasvale and it is still very good to stay here.

Elvis has left the building

Betty, Elderpark ALN Group

Hands up in the air, Elvis is in the building.
What big hair he has.
Better get to the front seat to see him, the bright lights
and the band.
The Jordanaires gave me such a boost that I fell on my
bottom, like Humpty Dumpty.
Down like a hammer, I was so happy I could pop a
balloon with a bat.
Haw the time.
I was so high I could have jumped a hoop.
My boy Bobby laughed at me when I got in the house.
But I did not care.
What an honour.
Elvis has left the building.

Glasgow

George, East End GAMH Group

He was a wee gallus guy
Always giving women the eye
He was full of dutch courage with
alcohol
Every day of his life was a ball
He would run up and down his lobby
It was his favourite hobby
He wasn't a blue or a green
Fitba he'd never seen
He would look after his weans
Travelling by buses and trains
The weather was often wet
Meaning he couldn't walk his pet
He lived in no mean city
Without a crumb of pity



Glasgow is...

Flora Cameron, Springburn Writers

M first yellow tramcar –
Noisy, crowded, over-full,
A frightening experience for a country
child
And a new language too!
“C’mon get aff, ya bam!”

No other Saturday

Gina, East End GAMH Group

The pope or the Queen
A`m no worth a bean
efter the auld firm on a Saturday
The bottles get smashed,
there’s always a crash
As the fighting gets going again
whit a kerry-oan
ma ma always moans
`n ma da is as drunk
as a monk
Its aw that Buckfast!
Its just wir class
nae wonder a don’t waant
tae go hame.....

Glasgow is...

Rose, Springburn Writers

Glasgow means buildings and birds;
it has cosmopolitan tastes
And the aroma of many lands.

Poem

Alan, Elderpark ALN Group

Monkey eats bananas just like Margaret.
Auntie Margaret teaches mice to eat
apples.
I threw apple crumble at the wrestler for
money, a witch toat wheest wally wean.

Adam’s Story

Adam Fitzpatrick,
Glasgow Simon Community

My name is Adam Fitzpatrick and I grew up
Pollok. When I was younger I used to play
football all the time with my pals.

I remember we were playing at the school
and a window got smashed with the ball.
So we were chased by the jannie and played
most of the time at the gravel pitches. I left
school when I was fifteen and started a YTS
in the old wine alley in Govan. In this job
we would make wardrobes and tables and
chairs. The lassies in the class made things
like cushions and covers for couches. I think
the stuff we made went to furnish flats for
the council.

When I was about 18 I started smoking hash
but a few of my mates started smoking
heroin and unfortunately I followed suit.
My old man was a boozer and we kind of
clashed because of this, I think we would
have got on better if I was a drinker. The
next ten years I lost my way with the drugs
and spent a lot of the time in and out of
the jail. I then got a job at a private hospital
in Glasgow but it didn’t last because I
was still using. This had effect on the
relationships I had and a woman I was with
for a few years broke up with me as
a result.

I spent some time in rehab which was really
good because I stayed off the drugs for two
years. As a result of losing important people
in my life I was on the homeless scene for a
while. I am now clean and have been for six
months.

I like Glasgow especially the culture and
the patter. And although I shouldn’t admit
it I did enjoy the gang fights when I was
younger. But one of the best things about
Glasgow is Celtic FC. I’ve always supported
them and it would be great if they could lift
the European cup again.



My Granny

Jean Martin, Glasgow Life - North Area Creative Writers

My granny was a wonderful baker.

She made her own bread and cakes and her jam and marmalade were famous.

As a child I remember fighting off competition to 'clean' the baking bowls and spoons. I remember asking her to teach me to bake and we did a 'cloodie dumpling' for somebody's upcoming birthday.

The problem was she did not use scales or measures so we would pour flour into the bowl, add a 'dod' of butter, a good 'haundfae' of dried fruit, a wee 'haundfae' of sugar and so on.

When the mix was ready it was put on a plate and the whole of this wrapped in a clout – in granny's case it was a small linen table cloth. This was then placed in a small boiler she kept for washing her 'whites'.

'How do you know when it's ready?', 'Your neb will tell you – don't worry about that.'

When the boiler was done it was taken out and left on a plate for a while to let the skin set. Nothing has ever tasted so good as the first 'outside' slice of dumpling.

She's a Stoater...

David, Elderpark ALN Partnership Group

She's a stoater but she's steamin.
She's on scooby scunner snacks
A face like a saft tattie
Yer better watch your backs.

Glasgow

East End GAMH Group

Gallus

Loud

Art

Stylish

Green

Overcast

Wean's

Short Poem

Teresa, Elderpark ALN Group

She's a toaty wee lassie.
She's doon fae Barassie.

Glasgow is...

Liz Murphy, Springburn Writers

Glasgow is like a playground, laughing and merry.

Its vibrant – an early walk in the park.

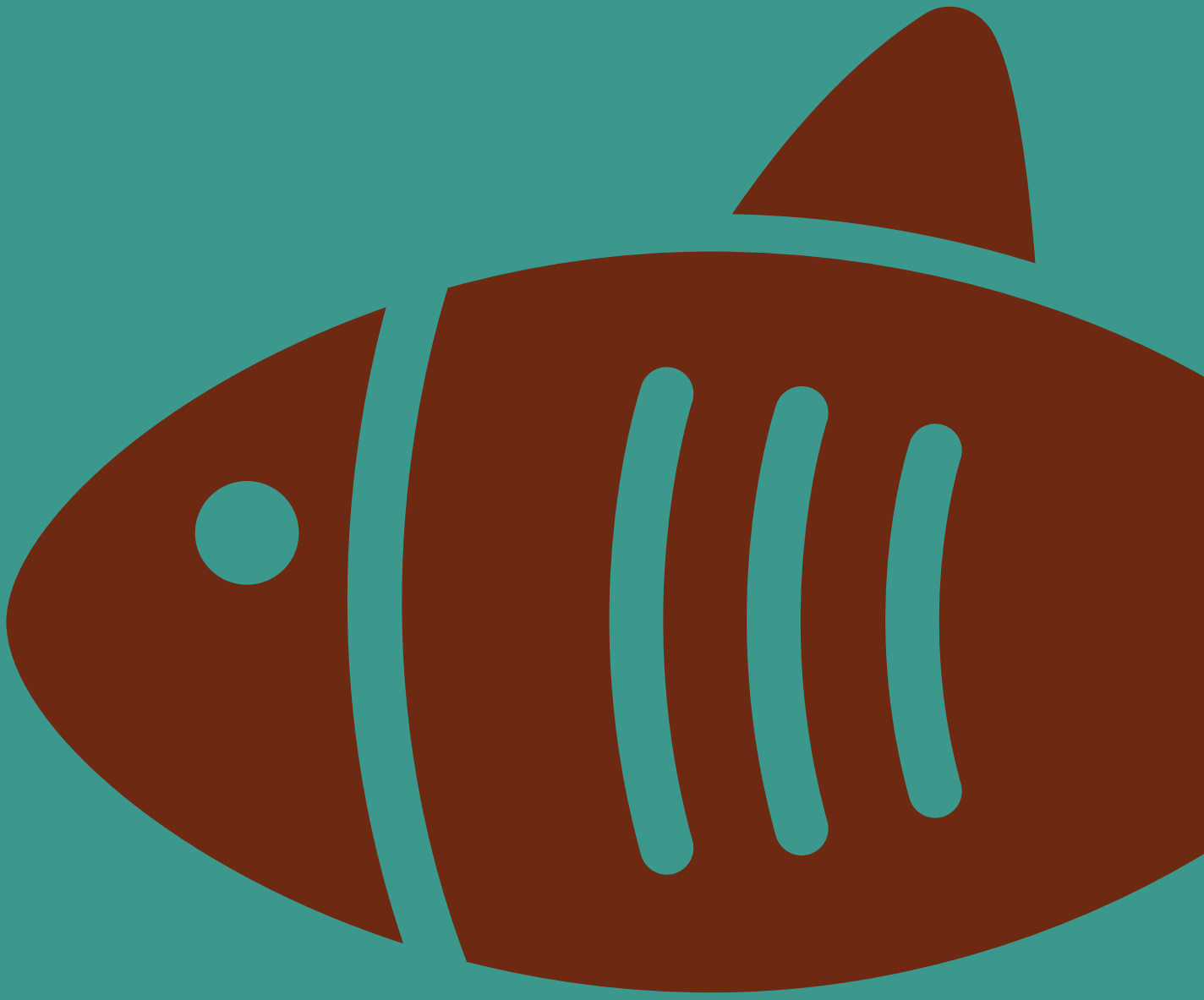
Glasgow is home-made soup, warm and loving.

Glasgow

East End GAMH Group

Glasgow is Glowing
It has swagger and glitz
Its weird and arty
Loud and outgoing

Living in Glasgow





Glasgow and Me

Billy Geary, Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

My name is Billy, I am 66 years old and have lived in Glasgow all my life. I have lived in Dalmuir and Clydebank. I currently live on Paisley Road West with my cat Cheeky. Football gives me a sense of belonging to Glasgow, especially Rangers and Celtic games. I like living in Glasgow because I meet new people and make new friends all the time. I also like the big shops. I really like shopping in the local shopping centre but a lot of the shops in there have shut down now. I like going ten pin bowling with my friends and attending film nights. During these we have crisps, ginger and popcorn. There are a couple of things I do not like about Glasgow. I do not like reading about murders, stealing and fighting in the local papers.

Craigend

Pauline and William Gilmour,
Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

We stay in Craigend where the:

Chippy is rotten, but we can
Relax, be happy at home
And gossip with
Irene, my friend
Go to pictures in town. We can
Even go to Hoggy to play on the swings with the
weans. There, the
Nature is varied with
Deer, dragonflies, hedgehogs, foxes and all types
of birds.

Riddrie

Gordon, Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

I used to stay on the Parade. I liked staying on the main road and it was handy for everything. Living on the Parade is good because it's near the town and Alexandria Park where you can feed the swans. The train station is nearby and I can get a train into town. I used to get the school bus and I used to go out to play. I used to watch the fire engines go by, they were up my street. I used to stay in with my mum, dad and brothers. This is where I grew up. Right on the end road is where I stay in Riddrie, next to the prison and the Riddrie Centre. It is near the motorway.

I Belong to Glasgow

Karen Buchanan, GDA Project

Glasgow, the city in which I was born
Cerebral Palsy from the start
My life expectations torn apart

Glasgow, the city in which I was born
"Mainstream schooling
Who are you fooling?"

Glasgow, the city in which I was born
"What!! You want to work?"
With that my peers said,
"Good luck"!

Glasgow, the city in which I was born
"Now you want to wed
It'll never last" they said

Glasgow, the city in which I was born
Diagnosed with Dystonia, yet
another ailing
My body continuously failing

Glasgow, the city in which I was born
"Join our organisation today, welcome
to the G.D.A. A place of support and
friendship" they say

Glasgow, the city in which I was born
Finally I do belong.



We Belong to Glasgow

Matthew Haley and David Mulholland,
Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

We stay in Castlemilk. We both like football and Celtic. I worked as a scaffolder for 8 years and David worked as a gardener for 2 years. We go to pubs called the Beechwood and O'Leary's in the Southside of Glasgow. We are both aged 25.

We both have the same friends. We also visit the Castlemilk Youth Complex. The reason we like Glasgow so much is because you can travel almost anywhere in Britain from Glasgow.

Glasgow

Salma Diwe, Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

Glasgow is a big city. The people are friendly.

I feel happy because I stay here.

I like shopping in Glasgow.

It has many big shopping centres. But I don't like the weather in Glasgow. It is a cold city.

Glasgow

Zenta,
Glasgow Life East Area ESOL

I live near the Garrowhill train station. There are many bushes, trees and blackberry bushes beside the station. There are mountains in the distance.

There are some schools, a community centre, and a playground. The library and the Health Centre are only 5 mins away by bus. 15 mins by train and I am in the city centre, where it is possible to find various things to do.

I like Glasgow it is a beautiful city.

I Belong to Glasgow, Glasgow Belongs to Me

Joyce Parlane, Glasgow Women's Library

I am involved in the Women's Library because I'm basically nosey! I have been involved in the knitting group, women's tour groups and both of the Making space Arts projects. It was through this that I was asked to join the Women's Detective Group.

The Women's detective group got involved in researching women buried in the Necropolis. What interested me most was - Who is there? Why are they there? Was it only the rich who got buried near the top of the hill in the Necropolis?

Throughout the project, I have enjoyed the investigating of the women buried there, listening to others speak about the information they have found out. These new skills have helped my confidence.

I have decided to share with you the day that Clare Balding from Radio Four came to interview the group for her Radio programme 'Ramblings'.

I met the girls for the tour in the Necropolis. I was very nervous about it. I was very interested in what they had to say. Jean talked about the architect, Greek Alexander Thompson and the artist Rennie MacIntosh, particularly how they were involved in the design of the headstones. She also spoke about Glasgow Cathedral and the Royal Infirmary- the two main buildings which you see from the Bridge of Sighs.

Christine talked about the inscriptions on the monuments- one is of a skull and crossbow- the other an upside down torch meaning long-life. (Quite funny considering they are dead!) I have never seen them before.

I also heard about the story of Colinda Lee- the queen of the Gypsies. It is said that she read the palms of a young Queen Victoria. I enjoyed it very much as it was the first time that we were getting to hear each other's research of the individual parts of the tour.

I have learned a lot about the Necropolis and the women who are buried there. I will continue to go to the Women Make History Group. I would like to become a tour guide on this walk. I enjoy history and walking- this covers both of my passions.



Glasgow

Samina Tariq,

Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

Glasgow's Parks and libraries are good fun for children. The Govanhill area has very many shops that are good for shopping. Children's schools are very great.

Glasgow's Got...

Allan Mann, Eastbank Literacies Group

Museums have art
Tollcross Park the swimming baths
And football too

Clyde's got the Waverley
Takes you doon the seaside

Glasgow Green and Botanical Gardens
And of course, the 'good' football team

Kelvingrove Park's got the scenery
Flowers, fountains
A great day oot!

Glasgow

East End GAMH Group

Walking along the River Clyde, I bump into my pals. We go the chip shop for our fish supper, then we go to the pub to have a drink. On the way home we cut through George Square and we play on the statues. Every night you can get sandwiches at the soup kitchen.

Glasgow

East End GAMH Group

The weans are doon the 'chippy'
And as usual are a wee bit 'lippy'
The mammies ir hinging oot the washin
Wi the usual amount 'o' passion
The weans have raided the midgie bins
'n' hit the windaes wae the tins
The banter is always 'mingin',
Bit better than the singin,
Yer maw's doon the pawn wi yer da's new suit.

Ten bob again. A weekend oot
The games a bogie! Shouts wee Johnny again
The fitba oan the telly
Ma maw needs to fill ma belly.
A want tae watch the game wi ma da.
Bit don't say a thing tae ma ma!

I Belong to Glasgow

Stephen Anderson,
Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

My name is Stephen
I am 37 years old
I live in Riddrie with my mum
I like living in Glasgow because the fitba` is good
I love going to Ibrox to see Rangers
I go with Paul, my sister's husband
I like the good players like Boyd
My best player was Kenny Miller but he left.

Graham's Story

Glasgow Simon Community

I came to Glasgow a few years ago and the city welcomed me in. I've been to numerous cities before such as Liverpool, Belfast and Manchester but my favourite has always been Glasgow. When I moved from my home town I had the choice to go anywhere as I've no kids and had just split up with my partner. I did consider going to Manchester but chose Glasgow and have never looked back. The people are so down to earth and made me feel like I'm home. I hope things keep getting better and I'll grow old in my adopted home – Glasgow.



I Belong to Glasgow, Glasgow Belongs To Me

Jacqueline Burns, Glasgow Women’s Library

I live in the Gorbals and have lived there for two years. I live with my partner Alex and Bobby my grandson but other members of my family Olivia, Jacqueline and Janet are always there.

We live in an old tenement type of building. It is a very busy lively street full of families and too much traffic! We are not very far from the City Centre.

The Gorbals is a good place. We have a lot of community facilities like the library, schools, nurseries and leisure centre. We even have historic places of interest- the Southern Necropolis and the People’s Palace in Glasgow Green. It is good for families with children because we have good shops.

We also have a good mix of different religious places to go and worship in. We have the Mosque, the St Francis Centre and Duns Scotus Church. All these places offer group meeting space for community groups.

We have suffered in the past with housing problems – planners made mistakes in the past but hopefully, they have got it right now. We have even got a college – the Nautical College and a hotel which attract people from all over the world. So plenty of people from abroad experience living in the Gorbals!

I wish that there was a bit more community spirit- more information to the people. Fewer cliques and other people should be welcomed into groups which make decisions about the running and the future of the area.

What Glasgow Means to Us

Southside Learning Group

William - Glasgow is a good place. There are a lot of good people in it – a lot of them comedians. It’s my hame!

Michael – Lots of good shops and places to stay.

Mark – It’s a good town. St Enoch’s Centre is magic.

Scott – It’s a historical city.

William – In the rain, in the sun, Glasgow’s number one!

Catherine – It’s a lively place. It’s jumping!

Linda – I love to walk in the parks in Glasgow and look at the trees.

Willie’s Story

Glasgow Simon Community

What makes Glasgow special to me is the town centre and the night life.

As well as the Barras and the Barrowland. The dancing, especially the raves I’ve been to have been brilliant. I wouldn’t change Glasgow for the world.

‘Hame’

Tony & Margaret

Glasgow Life North Area Literacies Group

We are Glasgow born and bred
To leave would fill our hearts with dread
But as the song so often said
Glasgow belongs to me...
Margaret was raised in Old Blackhill
But now her home is Maryhill
She raised her weans in a wee room
and kitchen
Nae much room, so there was loads
of bitchin’

Tony is our East End lad
He says Garthamlock’s ‘no too bad’
Football’s what he used to play
Jumpers for goalposts in his day
Our adopted Weegie, that’s ‘our Ray’
He chose Glasgow as his place to stay
The trendy West End is his hub
The Oran Mor, that’s his pub
So Glasgow belongs to all of us
It’s home to you and me
From Pollok right through to Easterhouse
Glasgow’s the place to be.



Glasgow Parks And Museums

Stuart Gray, Glasgow Life North Area Literacies Group

I live in a house which was built in 1883 for the Johnston's car dealers. It is in Springburn Park. Glasgow is special to me because of the history. We have art and parks. The museums are good to see history like the Glasgow Boys, Charles Rennie MacIntosh and others.

The parks are in different areas of Glasgow. My Dad worked for the Parks Department with a friend. They used the River Clyde as a border line between different areas. Some parks have Winter Gardens. We had one in Springburn Park but it burned down years ago. Now I go to the one down the West End. They have two. One is old fashioned and the other is modern. The park is the one that has plaques on the trees and other plants. Most of the parks have rockeries, swings and climbing frames for kids. We used to have boats in some of the parks. We have ponds and some still have boats and islands. We have swans, ducks, Mallards and others. We have lots of parks.

Big Man Gerry

Gary Sorbie, Elderpark ALN Group

Big man Gerry is wearing a green jumper covered in gold grape. The girl's granny goes "wheesht hen going into the garden".

Nippy sweetie Sarah Sorbie Stuart is walking the Stanmore Street with her sugar school shoes, she's toaty but she is gallus.

Glasgow

John Docherty

Glasgow Life - North Area Creative Writers

Glasgow is an amazing place
A city that hits you in the face
Full of fun and lots of laughs
In the pubs and in the cafes

The Glasgow patter is unique
From guys called Tam right down to Deek
It gets this image of being tough
But there's lots of smooth mixed with the rough

Great architecture, many slums
The hoity toity and loads of bums
You have the Billys and the Tims
The Boabs, the Eddies and the Jims

The People's Palace
The Kelvin Hall
Botanic Gardens
It has them all

Sure Glasgow is a unique town
Full of ups and full of downs
Give me Glasgow any day
I love my life the Glasgow way

I Belong To Glasgow

By Christine Riley, James Lynch and Daniel Docherty

Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

Bright lights on George Square
Elephant in the Kelvingrove museum
Lots of people come to visit

Oh I like Glasgow

Noisy streets

Go on the motorway

Talking at the bus stop

Oh I like Glasgow

Glasgow Green for walks

Laughing with my pals

Always busy

Sitting, feeding the pigeons

Glasgow is my favourite place

Oh I like Glasgow

Walking everywhere



I Belong to Glesga'

Julie, Glasgow Life - North Area Creative Writers

I belong to Glesga'
It's the place to meet
No other city compares
To the banter on the street

Celtic v Rangers (a vision of blue and green and white)
It's a brilliant sight
Guaranteed to end
With a rammy or a fight

Rab C Nesbit, Taggart and Still Game too
Programmes on the telly
Can turn the air blue
English comrades need subtitles too

Charles Rennie Mackintosh
Genius of our city
Tourists get oan the tour bus
It's no free though, that's a pity

Jim Watt, Kenny Dalglish, Alex Ferguson as well
They're all entitled to their own jail cell
Nelson Mandela and Billy Connolly too
They're allowed to fish in the Clyde, no' like me or you
They have the freedom of our city
That's why I've made up this ditty

Glasgow My City

Wilma Wilson,
Pollokshaws ALN Project

George Square. At Christmas there are lights and an ice rink. The population of Glasgow is around 588,000. It is the UK's largest retail centre after London. The city is only 40 miles from Edinburgh. Glasgow is one of the UK's top financial centres. It is home to many of Scotland's leading businesses. The city has wonderful Art Galleries and Museums.

Glasgow has changed, it has more museums, art galleries and sport centres. The city has more motorways, shopping centres and cinema complexes. It has better transport.

Glasgow Central Station is where local and long distance trains leave from. Local trains go to Ayr, Irvine and Paisley. Long distance trains go to London and Penzance in Cornwall.

I Belong To Glasgow

Tracy Duffy, GDA Project

I was born and raised in a two bedroom tenement flat in Easterhouse in 1970 and I've never lived anywhere else but Glasgow. I see Glasgow as being quite a hive of activity. The city centre is always bursting at the seams with people going about their business. Most of the people I have come across in my life are great, however more frequently I am finding that complete strangers can be so rude. They bump into you, you apologise to them and they look at you like you have just committed a terrible crime.

As far as I am aware Glasgow has a pretty good night life, but I wouldn't actually know about that as I do not go to nightclubs or anything, I can't stand all the dead loud music and flashing lights, it drives me nuts. There are plenty of things to see and do in the city like the Transport Museum, Art Galleries, Leisure centres, cinemas etc

As a wheelchair user I have to travel by black cab or bus. Sometimes when getting taxis I end up with a really crabby driver or if I am on the bus with my partner, people just seem to stand and stare when I am trying to get past them, or there may be a woman on with a buggy and she will just sit there and refuse to move, so therefore I can't get on and have to wait for another bus to come along. My other problem is with wheelchair accessible buses which are few and far between so it tends to take a bit longer for me to get from A to B.

My contribution to Glasgow is my volunteering. I do this on a Tuesday and Wednesday. My role is in the admin area of an arts project for young people, which I love doing. It makes me feel like a valued member of the community.



Alan's Story

Glasgow Simon Community

I've stayed in Glasgow for 62 years and there's no other city I'd stay in not even if I won the lottery. I've been asked to go down to London to stay but no way. Glasgow's the only place you can go into a pub and have a conversation with someone. I was born in the Gorbals and they say in the fifties, and even before that, you could leave your door unlocked and go out.

Glasgow has something special about it. The redevelopments caused many houses to be demolished. and in some way it did take the heart out of the city, but I suppose we should just be happy with what we've got.

Glasgow

Eva, Glasgow Life East Area ESOL

Glasgow is one of the biggest cities in Scotland. There is a lot of very old and very nice buildings. The architecture in Glasgow is very interesting. For example the oldest house in Glasgow. There are a lot of museums and they are free. In my opinion transport in Glasgow is well organised but is not cheap. The buses are sometimes dirty and there are aggressive and drunk people.

Long Live Creative Writing!

Parveen, Glasgow Life - North Area Creative Writers

Walking doon the street
Wondering what tae eat
Tummy rumbling, what's new
Feeling cold and a little blue

There goes that diet
What a riot
Had too much tae eat
But that's nae defeat

Time for some munchies
Deep fried Mars bar, very crunchy
A Glasga treat, so they say
Indigestion's coming my way

Food, food from every city
Glasga's dish is fattening, what a pity
It is only fish 'n' chips
Tasty on the lips, a lifetime on the hips

Thistle Housing

John McAuley,

Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

I belong to Thistle housing and Thistle housing belongs to me. I used to stay in a hostel called Westhaven which was run by Crossreach, which is a company that runs different hostels for all kinds of ill people. Westhaven has now closed down and that was nearly 2 years ago. The hostel and the company are now run by a company called Threshold Glasgow West of Scotland. Westhaven was up in High Burnside but now the service users that stayed in Westhaven have all been moved down to Toryglen. The houses that they stay in are all run by Thistle Housing Association and they all enjoy staying there. Westhaven has all been boarded up and no-one stays there now.

Susan's Story

Susan Murray,

Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

My name is Susan and I live in Maryhill beside a garage. I was born in Calton near Glasgow Green. I have lived in Haghill also. Glasgow is bonny. I enjoy coming to the Hinshaw Centre in the morning and wash the tables in the afternoon. I go to my sister's house in Mount Vernon at the weekends. I do not like visiting the art galleries and museums because they are not very exciting. But, I like visiting all the shops. My favourite shop is Marks and Spencer on Argyle Street.



George for Glasgow

George McNaught, Eastbank Literacies Group

I am George from Glasgow, I owe nothing
Who's nothing great
Nor nasty, grim or glamour

I like to drink a glass of beer near my house
I bite my nails
I enjoy myself, wear a laugh and grin.

Got a nose for the news,
Sometimes I act the goat.
I never say no to a good night out, if given the nod
Sometimes I am a nuisance –
When I strip naked!

Tommy's Tale

Tommy Mason,
Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

My Name is Tommy Mason. I live in high flats in Milton. I work in Project Ability in King Street in the city centre. I paint and draw with other people at Project Ability. We draw things like fish, people, houses and scenery. We make our paintings using oil paints. I feel like I belong to Glasgow. I was born here just after the second world war. I have lived in Glasgow all my life. My brother-in-law and sister live in a place in the country that has a big castle beside it. I would not want to live there as I prefer the hustle and bustle of Glasgow. I also like Glasgow because I like visiting all the different art galleries and museums. My favourite is the People's Palace.

Wee Auntie Annie

Ann, Elderpark ALN Partnership Group

Wee Auntie Annie eats egg and apple
after she makes tea for Andrew, Angela
and Audrey.

Having a natter and watching
Emmerdale and Eastenders, when in
came actor Arthur Daly pure steaming
wi` a bottle of Eldorado.

He was giving it laldy walking doon
Argyle Street, when they met an
elephant wi a lassie Elaine, she was
looking for Avril.

Wally Dugs

Jim Kane, Greater Pollok Carers Creative
Writing Group

On a dusty shelf in a gloomy back room,
a wee wally dug sat and sighed
He pondered the fate of his wee wally mate
Licked his wee wally years as he cried
His wally eyes twinkled, his wally
nose wrinkled
She was back in her place newly glazed
After all this while we're now back in style
His wee wally heart pounded,
delighted, amazed!
With loving care, she polished the pair
And patted their wee wally lugs
Elegant and neat to their wee wally feet
Alongside wee toby jugs

Claustrophobic

Lorraine, Elderpark ALN Group

I went to visit my cousin who stays on the 15th floor. The lift suddenly stopped with a bang and I began to panic. I started to scream and shout, "Is anyone going to come and let me out?"

After a while someone came to let me know that the firemen are on the way. But it was too late I already felt claustrophobic. I imagined the walls were caving in, I was hot and terrified. Then at last I heard the fire engine siren in the distance and it wasn't long before they got me out.

This experience put me off going to see my cousin so I went home.

I have never been so frightened in all my life. So the next time I go to visit him I will take the stairs, so that I don't get trapped ever again.



Glasgow

Christine, Glasgow Life East Area ESOL

People in Glasgow don't have their breakfast at home. They have their breakfast in the restaurants or cafes. The Glasgow museums are very interesting because there are a lot of things you can learn from them. Glasgow has nice buildings. They are very old but they are maintained very well, for example, Dennistoun Library, where I learn English and reading and writing. The transport and buses are very good in Glasgow. Adult learning is really good. The teachers are very friendly. When I came to Glasgow I didn't know about reading and writing. I started learning in Dennistoun Library. To begin with it was hard but my teacher, Laura, gave me courage. The service in the shops is very good. Because in my country we don't have shops like this – 24 hour shops – if you are late, you are late! The weather is terrible. It's very cold but I like Glasgow. My education makes me like Glasgow a lot.

I Belong to Glasgow

Caroline, Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

I like to stay in Glasgow, I've got my flat in Saltmarket.

I like everybody, all my friends. Carol is my Key Worker. Maria is my best friend.

I was at a party on Saturday, it was a 21st and I enjoyed it. I was up dancing and had a drink of diet coke.

Helen my niece was there and my sister's boyfriend Kenny and Audrey.

Glasgow

Maria, Rosemount ESOL

I like living in Glasgow because
I like the hills and mountains in Glasgow
I like the old buildings there
There are nice buildings
I like shops and different cultures

Poem

John, Elderpark ALN Group

I'm having a joke with the chief peely wally.
Weans having a greet.
Is that jardan a jester? Jump, coat, Jim, coffee,
chief, can't jelly, jam.

The People Are Friendly

Angela Shannon, Eastbank Literacies Group

The People are friendly

I have only been here 3 years

I have made friends at my Wednesday group

I like shopping in Glasgow and love my new red handbag

Glasgow Green in the summer

Is the place to be seen

Running around Tollcross Park

Makes me free as the larks

Kelvingrove Art Gallery is a nice place

To relax with a cup of tea and

Chat with all my Glasgow friends.

Glasgow

Bell, East End GAMH Group

Fresh hot doughnuts fae the barras

Whelks, tattie scones irn-bru

Chippies fritters and beer

Memories that make Glasgow dear

Glasgow is...

Susan McGinlay, Springburn Writers

Glasgow is a rainbow

the rolling of the letter 'r'

Glasgow is a banquet.

Like an onion, it has many layers.

Sadly, it smells like a motorway.



William's thoughts on Craigend

William Gilmour,
Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

Craigend Towers
Light up
All different colours
Red, Purple, Green, Blue and Pink
Remind me of flying saucers
Our own sci-fi feature

Trilogy

Ian Davidson, Pollokshaws Library Creative Writing Group

The cost of living
Is higher in Pollokshaws
Humans stuck in lofts

The bus no longer
Sleeps at the Newlands Depot
Now a Morrisons

Occasionally
The Royal train carriages
Slept at Shaws sidings.

Pamela's story

Pamela,
Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

My name is Pamela. I have been coming to the Riddrie Centre for a long time.

I come every day on the bus.

I love coming to the Riddrie Centre because I like to use the computers and work with Jacky.

I like to meet my friends Marie and Christine and we have fun. I like to talk a lot and have a laugh.

I also go to college on a Monday and use the computers for typing.

Glasgow

Shahida Parveen,
Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

The thing I like about Glasgow is the River Clyde. It is very historic and famous for ship building. The architecture of the buildings in the city centre is amazing.
I have been living in Glasgow for a long time. I feel very much at home.

The Sunshine Bar

East End GAMH Group

Ah! Listen to the patter, sounds like a mad-hatter.
Confused with the latter?
A Glasgow Socrates on his knees to the sound of a tap.
Just another merry rap.
Do you listen or laugh?
Is he there? Don't be daft!
You pass by towards home but the beat goes on,
Da De Dum De Da Dom.

Glasgow and Me

Catriona Thomson,
Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

Me
Friendly, sympathetic,
Understanding. Travelling, pottering.
I am happy when I am in Glasgow
Changing, accepting, uplifting,
Homely, friendly,
Glasgow

The Cludgie

Vincent, Elderpark ALN Group

The cludgie in a rush,
you cannae shove your granny aff a bus, cause
she's yer mammies mammy,
you cannae do the cludgie in a rush.



Football

My Story - A Rangers Fan

Wullie, Glasgow's Regeneration Agency – South West

This is my story. My name is Wullie I was born in Govan in 1957 and I am Rangers mad. This is my memory of the day when I was at the Old Firm game when the Ibrox disaster happened.

I had an Alsatian dog that used to wear my Rangers scarf and we went everywhere together. He was my best friend.

That day my two pals came up for me and said Rangers and Celtic were playing "Do you want to go and see the game?" I said "yes, let's go". We got the subway to Copland Road and walked round to the stadium. We cut down the side street at Stairway 13. We asked a couple of older guys to lift us over the turnstiles. They did and we ran up the grassy bank next to the stairway and went into the shed where the fans stood and watched the game. It was a good game and then Celtic went 1-0 up in the 89th minute. My pal said "let's go home Wullie". I said "come on then". Some of the fans were leaving so we got out the shed and because the stairs were busy we ran back down the grassy bank next to Stairway 13 and out of the stadium. We went into the chippy and headed back to the subway when we heard a big cheer and saw some people running. I saw a man and I asked him "Who scored?". "Colin Stein" he said "in the 91st minute it's 1-1". My pal said "let's go back in" but I said "no, it's finished". He'd scored and the game was finished so the crowd would be coming out, "let's just get the subway". It was a draw, so we all went home.

The next day my pals came up for me and told me about the disaster on stairway 13. That was the stairs we ran down at the side of because it was busy.

It was one of the saddest days of my life.

The Old Firm

Joe, Glasgow's Regeneration Agency – South West

If there is one thing that sums up Glasgow it is the passion and excitement that comes when Rangers and Celtic meet in an Old Firm match. The history that comes from both teams is well beyond football and religion is a big factor. The two teams have had a hatred for each other ever since they were formed.

Celtic was the top team in recent years but Rangers have won more titles, so these games are always well tasty.

My family is mixed. My mum is a Rangers fan and my dad a Celtic fan.

I was at an event at the Marriott Hotel when I was about 9 with my brother. Ally McCoist and Mark Hateley were there and came and sat with us because we were sitting by ourselves. Ally is my hero.

This is how I became a Rangers fan.

My wish would be for the two teams to get together and for the hatred to stop.

Rangers Disaster 1971

Joe, Glasgow's Regeneration Agency – South West

On 1st January 1971 Rangers and Celtic were playing at Ibrox. Celtic were up 1-0 until the 89th minute. The crowd started to leave and then Rangers scored an equaliser in the 91st minute. The fans that left came back in and were met by the fans that were leaving to go home. This is where the disaster happened on Stairway 13.

This will always live long in the memory of both Rangers and Celtic because it brought the rivals together in a time of need.

Rangers are the only Scottish team to be in the Guinness Book of Records for reaching 50 league titles in a row and the biggest flag.

A stylized, abstract graphic in shades of orange and dark orange. It depicts the upper portion of a person, including the head with short, pointed hair, a large ear, and a wide, curved collar or shoulder. The graphic is positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping the text.

Working and Volunteering In Glasgow



Working In Glasgow

Billy Sands,

Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

I worked in Morrisons, Baillieston, as a food produce assistant. I helped water the plants too. I really enjoyed it because I had a lot of friends. I once fell over a box of bananas, injuring myself slightly. I was sorting the bananas out and I fell over the box that I had left lying on the floor.

Working in Glasgow

Steven Murphy,

Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

I used to work in the Café in the Asda at Parkhead Forge. I stacked the teas and helped put the seats onto the tables.

Glasgow

East End GAMH Group

I worked in Beardmore's Steel Works, what is now the Forge Shopping Centre, in the early seventies. We worked one week day shift, one week night shift. On the night shift we were paid at 9.30pm. There would be wives waiting outside the pay office to get at least some of their husbands wages, as the pubs in those days shut at 10pm.

We'd walk over to our shift's pub, the Palace Bar (now long gone) and there would be pints and halves lined up along the bar ready for the fast bevy session. Then into work to our bothy where the wash-hand basin would be full of cans of beer with the cold tap running full blast over them.

I worked as a slinger with the overhead cranes moving loads of up to ten ton ingots and billets of special steel around the shop.

How do you work with a crane driver with a good drink in him? Very, very, carefully! Either that or you'd be throwing stones up at his cab to wake him up.

I belong to Glasgow, Glasgow belongs to me

Jimbo, Glasgow Life North Area Literacies Group

I've always stayed in Glasgow with my family most of the time. When I went to school I had a brilliant time. Me and my pals joined the Army Cadets. We all went twice a week. After a few weeks at the cadets we went on lots of camping trips. I remember one trip especially. Me and my pals were on the jeep and after a while the jeep ran off the road but I thought it was only a bumpy road. The only person who got hurt was me.

Then I got a job at a cheese factory. I worked at that job for a couple of years. I thought the job was a very boring job. I then started a job at the roofing game. I got the job off of a friend. He asked me if I wanted to start right away with him. I said I would. We were at that job for years.

Voluntary Work

Elizabeth, Glasgow's Regeneration Agency – South West

When I think back ten years ago I felt really down and low. This was because of my childhood and the fact I was brought up in different children's homes.

After my marriage broke down a lot of people were very kind to me so I wanted to do something for other people.

I went to the Volunteer Centre about ten years ago. At that time they were in Argyle Street, Glasgow.

I went to the Volunteer Centre with a friend and I have never looked back. It is the best thing I have ever done. I am very happy to help other people.

Every Friday I volunteer with the Chest, Heart and Stroke Foundation. I work in the Riverside Hall. It is in Clydebrae Street in Govan. I help the members off the mini-bus. When the lunch is ready I help to serve it out. After lunch we have a quiz and then it is time to go home. I then help the people back on the bus.

Coming
to Glasgow





East End GAMH Group

My first sight of Glasgow was Central train station, so many people and so many different languages. I had come from Inverness where I'd grown up and it was so different. I was going to Springboig and I got told to go to the low level at Queen street. By the time I got to the station the last train had gone and I spent the first night in Glasgow in the cells because the police classed me as homeless.

The cells were cold and smelly I had a scratchy blanket and had to pee in a bucket. The breakfast next morning was cold and rotten. But it didn't put me off Glasgow though, I have been here for 17 years!

Iman Yahya,
Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

Glasgow helps us learn English and I see the new culture. My children study in the school and it is available anytime and anywhere in the city. The Scottish people are friendly. I don't like the weather, especially in the winter. I like the shopping in Glasgow.

Raitis Raspopous, Maryhill ESOL group

Hi, my name is Raitis and I have been in Glasgow for one year.

What do I say about Glasgow? It is a very nice place. I really like it. It is a beautiful city. I don't like the rain much but it is OK. Sometimes friends and I go to the city centre to watch the people singing and dancing and I like to see the people sing and dance live. I think Glasgow is a very rich city. I like everything in this nice big city.

Mohamed Akai, Maryhill ESOL group

Glasgow is a city which has people from many nationalities. People from all over the world live in this city. This makes Glasgow mixed of many cultures.

As I work in restaurants, I notice different kinds of restaurants in the city; Chinese, Italian, Arab, Indian, Turkish, Iranian. You can't see all these in other cities. Glasgow's people are friendly and helpful. If you have a problem, you can go to them.

Salem Abadara, Maryhill ESOL group

I have been living in Scotland for two years. When I came to Glasgow city I found it too cold and snowy. Glasgow is a big city.

I've got a big family. I don't have a car. I use my feet when I move everywhere, to school or shopping with my family and the children. Life in Glasgow is very easy as far as transport.

I should not forget the health centres. They are everywhere in Glasgow. This is good for my family. The old people of Glasgow are very well tempered. I like life in Glasgow.

Yu Yan, Maryhill ESOL group

I feel Glasgow is a big city.

I feel that there is everything in Glasgow.

I like Glasgow's good services.

I'm happy I have an English class.

I've been living in Glasgow for 22 years.

I'm from China.

Now I have two homes, China and Glasgow.

Shireen Agha Stanakzai,
Maryhill ESOL group

Hi, I am Shireen Agha Stanakzai.

I live in Glasgow Maryhill.

I have been here for six months.

I am from Afghanistan.

I don't speak English well.

I live on my own.

I go to learn English at Maryhill Community Centre every Monday.

I like the English class.



Vardan Aslanyan, Maryhill ESOL group

My name is Vardan.
I have been in Glasgow for six weeks.
I am from Armenia.
I know little English.
I like Glasgow. I have friends and family here. I don't feel alone.
Glasgow is very different from Armenia.
I am a painter. I like the Kelvingrove Art Gallery.
I think I will paint natural scenes and home buildings in Glasgow.

Yuet Kan Shing, Maryhill ESOL group

I feel Glasgow is a big city.
I like Glasgow.
There is everything in it.
I have never had any problems here.
I have been in Glasgow for 28 years.
I am from Hong Kong.
Now I have two homes, Hong Kong and Glasgow.

Michael McGinlay, Springburn Writers

A sprawling, uneven city
Contrasting enterprise and decay.
News vendors calling
"Times, News, Citizen – Final"

Samuel, Glasgow Life East Area ESOL

I have lived in Glasgow for four years. I live with my family in Maryhill. My neighbour is very kind and she is a good woman she likes my family. In the Maryhill area there are small local shops on Cross Street next to the small Lidl and behind my home there is a big Asda store. Beside Queen's Street there are high flats. I like living in Maryhill it is a quiet area. I moved house about one month ago. I used to live in Cranhill. I prefer living in Maryhill because the shops are close to my home and my children's nursery is nearby. The bus stop is only two minutes away.

I like living in Glasgow. I like living in Glasgow because it is a quiet place. Most people in Glasgow are good but a small percentage are not. I like the shopping areas and the town and the parks. The transport is also good. Some people are really friendly, like family. I love them.

Inga Heinrihsowe, Maryhill ESOL group

I've been here for about 10 months.
There are very beautiful landscapes. There are big mountains. In my country there aren't very big mountains.

I'm feeling fine here. I like the people; they are very nice, kind and friendly and helpful. They are always smiling.

This is my new home. I don't know how long I'll be here but I like this town and city centre. I visited many museums, castles and churches of Glasgow. They are so interesting and great and gorgeous.

When I was in the city centre I saw how many different people were there from different countries. It is a very multicultural place. I'm learning English and in my class there are many different people too.

Aisha A Abohigasm

Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

Glasgow is very cold and rainy.

Glasgow City Centre is very nice.

Glasgow is quite dirty.

There are many nice Parks in Glasgow.

Glasgow is attractive.

Asia Ali, Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

My name is Asia Ali. I have lived here for one year. Glasgow is an affordable place to live and its friendly. It has many top-class hospitals, Parks, Schools, and several universities. The Government provides much more medical and educational facilities without any charges in Glasgow.



Jana Jegorova, Glasgow Life East Area ESOL

I live in Glasgow.

The people are very good. They are quiet and friendly. Older people like to go to the pubs. The historic buildings are very interesting. I have spent a small time in the museum but they are interesting. I haven't had the chance to go the cinema. In Glasgow there are many shops. They are big. In Glasgow there are many supermarkets. I haven't been to any restaurants. In Glasgow there are very many the cafes and bars. I haven't had the chance go to the leisure centre because I have a small boy. My son doesn't go to school. He is only 10 months old. The parks are very beautiful and big. There are squirrels and ducks. I think Glasgow is a dirty city. There is a lot of litter. It is a mess. The transport is dirty.

Moniho, Glasgow Life East Area ESOL

I have lived in Glasgow for two years. I like people in Glasgow because they are very friendly, helpful and welcoming. I like Scottish restaurants because the food is very good.

The service is good too.

I like to sit down and speak with my friend.

I like to go with my friend to coffee bars very much.

I like Scottish museums because the buildings are very big, old and beautiful.

I don't like the buses in Glasgow they are dirty.

I don't like the weather because it is often raining and there is little sunshine (there is not enough sunshine).

Daniela, Glasgow Life East Area ESOL

The people in Glasgow are nice and helpful but in the evening, if I am alone, I don't feel safe. I go to cafes with my husband. The food is good. There are lots of different tastes and flavours.

The museums are free. This is a great idea for me! You have to pay to go to museums in Poland.

I think parks in Glasgow are clean and beautiful, the buildings are historic.

I think transport is good but the buses are old and cold.

There are a lot of things in the shops to buy. I like shopping with my husband, He enjoys shopping too!

I have been living 5 months in Glasgow. My husband and I like living in Glasgow.

Barbara from Poland

Glasgow Life East Area ESOL

In Glasgow, the people are friendly, they love to talk about the weather, ask you how you are, and are loud.

I was in the restaurant Mongolian, Japanese, Chinese, Indian, Italian, Egyptian, and Spanish. It was very nice, very tasty food.

There are beautiful and interesting museums. I like neat, beautiful parks, full of flowers and greenery. Buildings in Glasgow are impressive and rich, beautifully illuminated. I like big shops, in Glasgow there are a lot of shops.

In Glasgow, the weather is variable. I do not like this weather because there is a lot of rain and little sun. In Glasgow it is chilly.

Jeyachandran Vasanthi, Rosemount ESOL

I've been living in Glasgow for just one year. My area is very quiet and is a nice place. Glasgow people are very helpful. In this place there are many shops, parks and schools.

Glasgow schools are very good. My daughter is disabled. She goes to a disabled school. The school's staff are very lovely and kind. They look after disabled children in a good way. I am so happy about the disabled schools in Glasgow. The social workers, doctors and everybody are very helpful to me.

Glasgow is very cold but it's very peaceful for me.

I love Glasgow. My neighbours are very nice people. Glasgow churches are very good.



Monika, Rosemount ESOL

The first time I came to Glasgow that was very hard for me. I don't speak English but here there are very tolerant people. Here there are very friendly and helpful people who help me learn English. I like to live in Glasgow because here my kids have a good school and friends. My family goes to the swimming pool, safari park and to many places.

I belong to Glasgow, Glasgow belongs to me
Glasgow is a nice and busy city. People are friendly and helpful.
The buildings are nice too. It also has nice, big parks with many playgrounds for the children.

In Glasgow, there are many different people from different countries. They all speak a different language. Glasgow also has many Learning Centres to help people learn English who speak other languages. I like Glasgow very much because the city centre has many shopping centres and I can get what I need and what I want. I would like to change transport fees because they are too expensive for everyone.
Another thing is the Glasgow weather is too horrible. Every day is grey and it makes me very down.
I feel very sad in Glasgow that they get many drugs and alcohol. That is very bad for young people.

Marilia from Portugal
Glasgow Life East Area ESOL

The Glaswegians are generally pretty approachable and friendly. Of course there are exceptions but we are made welcome when here.

There are fantastic museums, most of them with free entry, the biggest sign of the city's culture. There are big and very good parks to relax, walk and enjoy. Very good for children to play on playgrounds and ride a bicycle. Glasgow is a beautiful city of architecture and design that lures tourists from any place of the world.

But it is a dark city.
The schools have very good conditions and have the best equipment. The teaching is very practical but there are shortcomings in the method of teaching, especially children. As for the weather, April, May and June are the best months.
The rest of the year..... forget it!!!

Kornelia from Poland
Glasgow Life East Area ESOL

The people are very friendly, open for other nationalities. They're tolerant of children, and look happy.

In Glasgow there are a lot of restaurants, a whole range, but I prefer coffee shops.
In Glasgow are a lot of fantastic museums. My son's favourite museum is Kelvingrove Gallery. Glasgow has beautiful parks with playgrounds. They are good places for people with children. It is terrible weather, too wet, too cold. I don't like a wind.

Khalida Bostani, Maryhill ESOL group

My name's Khalida Bostani. I am from Afghanistan. I live here with my husband and I have 3 children. We have been here for about 8 years. I love Glasgow. The people are really kind and friendly.

I am very happy to come to the English class. My girl is 5 years old. She goes to school and my big son is 4 years old and he goes to nursery. My small son is 3 years old. He is at home with me. He is on the waiting list to go to nursery.

I am really glad I am here. Thanks.



Hamid Ali, Rosemount ESOL

For me, Glasgow is a city of hope. I call it the city of hope for the following reasons: When I got to London I was looking for hope in order to restore my self esteem. It was very hard to be a refugee outside my country. I have lost everything that I have achieved all my life. In my interview at the Home Office in Croydon, we were instructed to travel to Glasgow. This caused me a lot of stress as I did not have any information about Glasgow. We arrived in Glasgow and the car stopped outside the YMCA. I felt better instantly. During my first meeting with the YMCA employee, I felt that I was being treated in a humane way. They welcomed me and provided me with accommodation. I was also given an amount of money to cover our immediate needs. The next day a new beautiful life started. We met a number of Iraqis who arrived here before us. Each one was telling the other about their suffering in Iraq and about the reasons which forced them to leave. Then came the wonderful humane position regarding my very poor health condition. I was sent on the third day to hospital. I continue to go to hospital on a weekly basis. My health has changed. I nearly died before and now I am fine. The humane treatment which both my wife and I received from the YMCA, the nurses, doctors and taxi drivers amazed and confused me at the same time. I was treated equally like everybody else. I have never seen such good treatment in my own country or in Iraqi hospitals.

There is a positive side which I see when I go to sign at the Home Office every seven weeks. They check if my weekly payment is made and if my housing is OK. This humanitarian way of dealing is not there in my country.

Despite the circumstances that an asylum seeker goes through, they do not lose their humanity and they find themselves respected wherever they go. You feel that you are close to others as if you are one of them. You see it when they smile and greet you. This shows the integrity of these people. I have been here for four years and I don't have the residency from the Home Office but I feel very reassured and safe in Glasgow.

I do feel that the Scottish people and authorities will continue to fulfil my dreams of a happy life and will allow me to continue to receive my health treatment.

U. Halaranjini, Rosemount ESOL

Glasgow is very nice. It is beautiful. There are many shops, high buildings, parks, Science Centre, art galleries, museums, sports facilities, transport, weather, many restaurants, hotels, schools, more universities, many nurseries and medical centres. All of them developed.

There is lots of rubbish – we all need to clean city.

It is free of charge for every person to get into museums and parks.

Glasgow people are friendly, helpful and open. There are many cultures and religions.

There are many people from different countries in Glasgow. Here people speak many languages.

Here the weather is sometimes good, sometimes bad. The transport is very easy to get.

This is a developed country. All jobs, IT, everything technical is here – new items and the latest models. This is a good country.

Kaboy Tshinyoka,
Maryhill ESOL group

Glasgow is my first city in the UK.

It is the place I live in with my family and now one of my two boys has a child (boy) born here in Glasgow.

When I came here I was an asylum seeker and I received my indefinite leave to remain here in Glasgow.

When I came to Glasgow I didn't speak any English but now I am able to speak some words of English. I have a home, a place to sleep and my boys have a lot of friends here.

Because I love Glasgow, I must keep it very clean, respect the rules and pay my Council Tax.



Malinda Putri, Rosemount ESOL

I have been in Glasgow for about 2 years. I can say that Glasgow is a very attractive place. Every year people around the world come to Glasgow when they come to visit Scotland.

We can see multicultures in Glasgow, especially in terms of beliefs, religions and foods. For instance, we can see African shops, western restaurants such as Italian restaurants, Asian restaurants such as Chinese, Indian and Arabian. So, we can get so many kinds of food here. For myself, I like staying in Glasgow. If I compare it to my country, Malaysia, I think that education here is far better. I'm glad my son is schooled here.

Scottish people are quite friendly and helpful. They welcome people from outside to join activities. For instance, Glasgow City Council provides many activities, classes and training for foreigners, such as English classes, computer classes, photography classes and many more.

In my opinion, Glasgow is a very nice place for everybody. It is a calm and peaceful place. People respect each other. I love being in Glasgow.

Mariam Noseen,

Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

My name is Mariam. I came here from Pakistan because of my marriage. I like Glasgow city. There are many shopping malls in the Glasgow city. I see many restaurants: KFC, Pizza Hut and McDonalds.

It is a very cold city. Today is very cold.

Naseem Rehman,

Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

Glasgow is a very nice city. But I don't like how it always rains. I wish Glasgow was a little hotter in the summer. I like going shopping on the weekend because the shops are really good here.

Ashwaq Salah, Rosemount ESOL

I have been living in Glasgow for 7 years and I don't have any problems with the Scottish people. They are very friendly and helpful.

The shopping in Glasgow is very cheap for food and clothes. Living in this country, I don't have any problems. I feel safe and confident.

The education in this country is very good for kids and old people.

About the weather, it is very bad for me because I always feel unwell when there is no sunshine.

Yonan, Rosemount ESOL

In the city centre you have nice shops. There are nice people in Glasgow. You have lots of churches in Glasgow. I love the people in Glasgow. You have a nice college in the city centre. In Glasgow shopping is cheap. People in Glasgow help everybody. I like college in Glasgow. I like the culture in Scotland.

Gmo Ali, Rosemount ESOL

Glasgow is my second home. In Glasgow everything is different from my first home, like language, weather, religion, law and even Glasgow's dialect. Also, the relationships are very different from those in my first home. Of course, until now I am happier here than there. In Glasgow you can only see two seasons, winter and spring, but there are four seasons in Iraq. The systems of education and work are very different. In Glasgow you feel free.



Kelly, Glasgow Life East Area ESOL

I am Kelly I come from the middle of China. I arrived in Glasgow five years ago. During the period I have moved several times.

Now I live in Possilpark. It is in the west of Glasgow. It is a Historic town. There is a hill behind my house and a primary school on the hill. There is a playground in front of my house. Lots of children play there every evening in the summer. My neighbours are mostly Scottish people. They are kindly.

There are some shops and bars near my house and many buses across the road. It is about ten minutes to my work place by bus. It is very convenient. I like living here. But in a few years maybe I'll move. Because even my son is growing up I think I need to be looking for a better school for him.

I don't understand more about Glasgow. But I like the buildings and The weather here. Many buildings are wonderful. The weather is comfortable for me. I like it here. I want to know more about Glasgow.

Marzena, Rosemount ESOL

I came to Glasgow three years ago. I was very happy when I came here because my family was together again. My first year was very special here. I learned lots of new words and lots of new English sentences. I learned to live here. My life is changing here. I like to live in Glasgow. I know lots of people from all around the world. I love to know about new culture. I like to live in Glasgow because I can learn English. I think that in Glasgow people are very friendly and open. I like to go shopping. I like to go to museums and parks with my family.

Sazkar Hama, Rosemount ESOL

My name is Sazkar Hama. I come from Iraq. I have been in Glasgow for 4 years and 5 months. I love Glasgow. I live in an old flat but it is nice. In Glasgow, everything is different – the language, colour, rules and culture. But I'm happy here because I have many good friends from here. I can learn many things here such as the language and good rules. I like Glasgow because it is a very big and beautiful city.

Muhammad Salman Chaudhry,

Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

I live in Glasgow city. I came from Pakistan six months ago. I love this city. It's a very beautiful city. There are lot of shopping centres, parks, and cinemas. In Glasgow city one thing is very good and that is that everyone starts their work on time. The Scottish people are very punctual. But there is one thing which is not good, at least I do not like it, because most of the people are drunk every night and they don't respect the other people who are sleeping and some working. Why does the Scottish Government not make the equal law about the drunk people? So I live here and see their good habit because they are developing their country and I learn many things from them. I am very happy when I saw some Mosque there. Glasgow weather is good but not nice all the time.



Marianella Janes Oliveros, Maryhill ESOL group

The rain was in my head, in my face, as spikes of ice sticking ruthlessly. My hands were tingling white and should feel death.

My country is very hot and on my first days I felt the winter outside and inside me. But I felt the people smile and I thought, 'I think I should accompany them too.'

Glasgow for me is also shipyard workers in the past with its historic strikes.

Glasgow too is a city that sounds like a violin, a bagpipe, with its smells of coffee and bread, with the smell of whisky.

I like to look from the windows of my house and I see the children run in the morning. The children are free.

Then I remember my country, because here the children are children.

I know I feel love for Glasgow because, when I come back from my vacation, I feel I've come back to my home.

M. Zahid,

Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

My name is M. Zahid. I came in Glasgow 8 years ago. I like Glasgow. It is an old town. Glasgow is a nice place. Glasgow's a very big city in the U.K. Here weather is not bad. Sometimes it rains. Sometimes it doesn't. Glasgow city centre is very busy. There are many shopping centres, cinema. Theatre and restaurant, pubs. Here are many big parks. One of them is Queens Park. Sometimes I go for a walk there.

Monika, Rosemount ESOL

The first time I came to Glasgow that was very hard for me.

I don't speak English but here there are very tolerant people.

Here there are very friendly and helpful people who help me learn English.

I like to live in Glasgow because here my kids have a good school and friends.

My family goes to the swimming pool, safari park and to many places.

Javid,

Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

I came to Glasgow 7 years ago. I like Glasgow. It is a big City. Very nice.

Here there are many parks. Glasgow City Centre is very busy.

Balaal Rahel,

Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

I came to Glasgow with my husband and son. I like Glasgow, because all the people are accommodating and lovely. When I look to any person they smile at me. I like it. I like to shop in the city centre. Glasgow is a beautiful city.

Aisha Khan,

Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

My name is Aisha Khan

I like Glasgow because it is fun and we can go anywhere.

Glasgow is a very big place.

Glasgow has lovely parks and museums.

It has also got historic places.

People in Glasgow are very nice and friendly.

Glasgow is the biggest city in Scotland.

Glasgow

There are many Shopping Centres. I shop there.

Glasgow weather is not good. It rains here all the time.

Here is a big Queen's Park. We come here with the children for a walk.



Karina Al-E donne, Maryhill ESOL group

I have been in Glasgow for two years. Sometimes I feel lonely and homesick because I miss my daughters in Iraq. As soon as I arrived in Glasgow I met neighbours from Glasgow. They have been there for me. They supported me and showed me where things are. They introduced me to the shops and took me out to evenings where they celebrated. They made me feel as one of them. I go to the community centre in Maryhill to learn English. I have met new friends and I spend good times with them. I also go to the gym. People are kind here, tolerant and have a very good sense of humour.

Ayesha Munir, Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

My name is Ayesha. I come from Pakistan because I got married in Glasgow two months ago. Glasgow is a very big city. There are many hotels, museums, restaurants, shops and clubs. I like the traffic system very much. Glasgow is a very peaceful city. The atmosphere is very neat and clean. The scenery around here is very beautiful and charming. Weather remains mostly cold. I like it very much.

Magda, Glasgow Life East Area ESOL

Hi,
I come from Poland. I come to Glasgow 5 years ago. I like this country because I feel free here. I have here work which I like. I want to speak better English. I go to English classes every Friday in the library. I like this city, especially outside Glasgow. People in this country are very nice and always ready to help. I want to stay here longer as possible. I like most food although is a little fattening, they have too many calories. I cook traditional dishes like dumplings filled with cabbage and wild mushrooms and soup with beetroots.

Shimaa Kewan, Rosemount ESOL

My name is Shimaa Kewan. I have been here in Glasgow for 2 years. I've studied English at the Flexicentre for 2 years. I like Glasgow so much because it is too different from my country for many reasons. The only downside in Glasgow for me is the weather because it is too cold. Glasgow means more for me. It is a safer country than our country. My family needs a better life so we will achieve this better life in Glasgow (I think).

Suneth Wickremesinghe, Rosemount ESOL

I came to Glasgow very recently, in June 2010. My wife and daughter have been in Glasgow since 2000. She is the one who helped me to come to Glasgow. In the short time I have been here, I have learnt a lot. The people are very peaceful. Glasgow is a very beautiful city. In the beginning I suffered from the cold winter. Now I feel it is back to normal. In the Christmas season the city of Glasgow was very colourful. Not only the city, everywhere was the same. Glasgow's people are very cheerful. I hope to stay here in my lifetime. Honestly, I love Glasgow. There are so many places to go and see here but, unfortunately, I can't go anywhere yet. My wife has not got enough time to take me to those places due to her job. When she gets free time, I hope to go to those places with her.

Hamid, Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

My name is Hamid. I am in Glasgow. I come from India. I like living in Glasgow.



Arleta Kramer, Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

I don't consider Poznan in Poland where I'm originally from, as home these days because Glasgow is my home now.

This is a cosmopolitan city so there is a multicultural society and that gives me a great opportunity to see different cultures, traditions and races and learn from one another.

Also the majority of the city has an impressive heritage of 19th century Victorian architecture and 20th century called "Glasgow style" mostly developed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Alexander Thomson.

Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum or The City Chambers are outstanding examples, as are Templetons Carpet Factory, Gamethill Synagogue, Holmwood House and typical red sandstone tenements and many more.

Several have been converted into apartments adapted flats, schools, pubs etc not only for museums. In that way they never die.

Glasgow is a friendly city, with very friendly people, which has so much to offer.

Bsma Ahmed, Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

I have been in Glasgow since two years ago. So I like this city.

All the people are very friendly and helpful. But the weather it is very cold.

Naima Bayad, Maryhill ESOL group

I have been in Glasgow for six weeks.

I'm not aware of so many things around me. I spend most of my time at home.

I have liked the places which I managed to visit such as museums, parks, and shops. I think that Glasgow has nice people, many services and very cold weather. I have to say that I feel very homesick at times.

Jujhar Sandhar, Maryhill ESOL group

I am Jujhar Sandhar.

I belong to India.

I come to Glasgow four weeks ago.

I live with my wife.

Glasgow is a very clean and beautiful city.

I go to class every Monday to learn English and

I go to the gym 5 times a week.

Faisal Shahzad, Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

My name is Faisal.

I am from Pakistan.

I live in Glasgow.

I work in a cash and carry on Commerce Street.

My wife's an optometrist.

I have two brothers and two sisters.

I have one friend.

His name is Iftkinr.

He's crazy but good man.

He likes to drink vodka

Thank you very much.

Muneer Taleb, YMCA ESOL

When I came to Glasgow I started to look for work everywhere but I didn't find any and, even now, four years after, I still haven't found work.

I am very grateful for all the things that I have.

In fact, I am not very happy in this place. I love this place but there is no work or something for me to do. This is a huge problem.

I like to play football and to support Celtic. There is nothing to keep me busy in this place.

I have another problem; I don't like it when it gets so cold. I don't like people who laugh when I speak English but I don't want to fail and I must continue.



Rana M. Imran,
Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

I live in Pakistan I come to Glasgow 6 years ago. It is an old Town. Glasgow is a nice place. Glasgow is a very big city with very nice people. I am working in the Takeways. I have kids, one boy two girls. Here, the weather is not good. Sometimes raining and sometimes dry.

Jan Marchevsky,

Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

My name is Jan Marchevsky.

My country is Slovakia.

I have lived in Glasgow for five months.

Glasgow is a big city.

It is a very lovely city.

I have got to like Glasgow and Scotland has become my second country.

Irene Jamieson,
Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

Me
Cautious, Nervous
Walking, Observing, Avoiding
Junkies, Strangers, Money Grabbers, Students
Swirling, Zooming, Changing
Old, New

Shabana Kausar,
Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

I live in Glasgow and I am very happy. Because Glasgow is a clean and beautiful city. In Glasgow I'm learning English and after the summer holiday, I go to college. I like shopping, it is very easy. I like the library. Sometimes I go to the library with my children. I like Glasgow because here people are very friendly.

In Glasgow when my children go to school they are very happy. In Glasgow I like every thing.

Sajida Sheikh,
Govanhill Neighbourhood Centre, ESOL

My name is Sajida Sheikh. I live in Glasgow for 4 years. Glasgow is a beautiful and multi cultural city. According to my point of view, the best things in this city are, free education for all, free medical and different kind of benefits, which makes life more easier. The other side like alcohol, smoking, too much freedom like relations before marriages, makes society dirty and horrible. It is our responsibility, we make this city clean and peaceful, because we live in it.

Robert, Elderpark ALN Group

I think you are so funny,
Yer up there wi the jokes.
Yer pure dead brilliant, so you are.
I reckon you'll go far.

Una Sillars, Springburn Writers

Starlings kicking up a racket as twilight
drops down
Vinegary fish and chips and hot mushy
peas
A big soft hug, comforting body and soul
The stake river smells renewed as the tides
move...

Flora Bennett, Springburn Writers

A castle, strong and sturdy
It's smooth **and** crunchy
It's a revving engine full of noise.



The Glasgow Bus Tour

The Glasgow Bus Tour

Frank, East End GAMH Group

When I am in the town or should I say the city centre I always stop to look at the Glasgow City Bus Tour when it is passing by me. Most city bus tour buses are red but I've seen some blue ones as well. I have never been on the bus tour but I would like to try it sometime.

In the summer time I would sit up stairs while the bus is going round our city but I would sit under the roof bit at the back of the bus as the front is not under cover and it would be too warm for me.

In the winter time I would sit down stairs to keep my self warm and if it was raining I would be kept nice and dry.

I like to watch all the people on the city tour taken photos of our lovely city.

One day my friend and I are going to go on the bus tour during the summer and we will ask some other friends if they would like to come on the tour and see the lovely city of GLASGOW.

Glasgow Sightseeing Bus Trip

Maria and Sebastiano from Italy,
Miroslawa, Klaudia, Katarzyna and
Barbara from Poland
Hayat from Iraq

Glasgow Life East Area ESOL

Last week, students and teachers had an excursion around the city by the City Sightseeing Bus. We met at Eastbank Academy. The driver, Raymond, drove with attention. Chris, the guide, told us about the history of many places in the city. During the excursion we chatted to each other. Our boss Amanda brought cameras for all and we took many many photos. We saw Glasgow Cathedral, theatres and Kelvingrove Art Gallery.

We stopped for two times: we walked by the Clyde and visited the Kelvingrove Museum. It was a beautiful building and lovely things. There we drank coffee, ate cake and chatted about what we saw. After the trip our boss Amanda asked us what we felt about the trip. We said it was a very very interesting trip.

Glasgow

Christine, Dalmarnock Inclusive Adult Learning

G – Glasgow Green

L – Lights at Xmas

A – Argyle Street

S – Springboig

G – George Square

O – Oh what a place

W – Winter



Over the years at Aye Write! Glasgow's Book Festival, the part played by community writers has grown and grown. There are now three Glasgow's Learning events in the programme: Adult Literacies; Creative Writing; and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

Following the success of the three events in 2011 and after seeing the fantastic pieces of writing that had been submitted, a group of learners, from across Glasgow, came together to form a publication group. This was a new learning experience for everyone involved and one which was embraced by the group.

Here is what they had to say about the experience:

"Abilities have surpassed the disabilities"

"Great to see work getting published"

"Overwhelmed by experience"

"I didn't know what to expect it has been something different, a whole other experience"

"The team really gelled – good teamwork"

"It was good to get creative in a different way"

"We are just ordinary people who would never have thought we could do this"

"The group has united people, and crossed a lot of barriers"

"Our opinions have been really valued"

"Respect shown"

"I have the courage to speak up and feel more confident. The experience has helped my with my presentation project I am doing in my class"

"I couldn't read or write before and now I can" (since coming to ALN classes in Pollok and then this group)"

Help with reading, writing and numbers

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LEARNING

0800 027 6402 www.glasgowlearning.org.uk



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